

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VIRTUAL NAMESPACES  
FOR ACTIVE COMPUTING ENVIRONMENTS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides private namespaces for active computing environments. The invention uses one or more "compute capsules". A compute capsule is a private, portable, persistent environment. Each compute capsule comprises an arbitrary set of active processes and their associated state information. In one embodiment, compute capsules provide a private, customizable view of a shared file system, so that users can modify arbitrary files without the expense of providing each person with a separate and complete file system image. In one embodiment, the invention provides environments with different personalities, each of which can be contained within a capsule. For example, a user can have one capsule for normal desktop usage, a fail-safe capsule with a minimal environment and no external dependencies, capsules for work-related and personal activities, etc. In one embodiment, capsules are given access rights.